

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANAA 01213 201329Z

43

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /016 W  
----- 104770

R 200700Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5539

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L S A N A 1 2 1 3

DEPT FOR CHIEF A/SY/FO

BEIRUT FOR RSS

FOR RSO

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ASEC, MPOL, PORS, YS

SUBJECT: SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TRANSFER

1. AS INDICATED IN MY MSR'S OVER THE LAST 6 MONTHS, I HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING THROUGH ALL NORMAL DIPLOMATIC MEANS/CHANNELS AVAILABLE TO INDUCE YARG CENTRAL SECURITY FORCE (INTERIOR MINISTRY) OFFICIALS TO RE-EQUIP THE SOLDIERS ASSIGNED DIRECTLY TO US EMBASSY FOR COM RESIDENCE AND COMPOUND SECURITY. SINCE MY RATHER BLEAK FIRST ASSESSMENTS, NOW ALMOST ONE YEAR OLD, CERTAIN DISTINCT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF COVERAGE HERE HAVE BEEN NOTED AS WELL AS MORE OR LESS GENERAL YARG ACCEPTANCE OF MY DAILY TACTICAL SUPERVISION OF THEIR MEN, NORMAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATION MATTERS EXCEPTED. HOWEVER, ALL EFFORTS TO INDUCE CENTRAL SECURITY (AND HIGHER) OFFICIALS TO REPLACE THE ANTIQUATED, MARGINALLY FUNCTIONAL POTPOURRI OF "WORLD WAR 1 REJECT" BOLT-ACTION RIFLES (NO TWO SEEM TO USE THE SAME AMMUNITION) WITH SKS SEMI-AUTO OR AK-47 AUTO WEAPONS HAVE BEEN TOTALLY UNSUCCESSFUL. THE REASONS FOR THIS ARE:

A) YARG HAS NO CURRENT SUPPLY OF SMALL ARMS COMING IN FROM ANY SOURCE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF .308 FN/FAL RIFLES BEING OBTAINED THROUGH SAUDI ARABIA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANAA 01213 201329Z

AND EARMARKED FOR FIRST LINE COMBAT UNITS ONLY. THE ONLY

MAJOR SMALL ARMS SOURCE FOR YARG IN PREVIOUS YEARS WAS SOVIET UNION, WHICH HAS LONG SINCE CEASED DELIVERIES OF SECOND-HAND WEAPONS AND IS CONCENTRATING OF PDRY AID.

B) YARG SECURITY TROOPS MUST STAND IN LINE FOR EQUIPMENT BEHIND ALMOST ALL OTHER OPERATIONAL COMBAT UNITS, RESULTING IN ONLY OCCASIONAL ACQUISITIONS F HAND-ME-DOWN WEAPONS FROM A MULTITUDE OF SOURCES.

C) SYSTEM OF SMALL ARMS ISSUE OFTEN DEPENDS ON PERSONAL RANK OF THE PERSON INVOLVED, I.E., ALL CAPTAINS, LIEUTENANTS AND SERGEANTS WILL "GET THEIRS" BEFORE THE LOWLY PRIVATE IS EVEN CONSIDERED, OR SO I AM TOLD.

2. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, I AM OF THE FIRM OPINION THAT THE ONLY EFFECTIVE EQUIPMENT WHICH OUR YARG MILITARY DETACHMENT WILL RECEIVE IS THAT WHICH WE CAN PROVIDE OURSELVES. I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH THE DATT, WHO ADVISES THAT NO PRESENTLY KNOWN MILITARY ARMS DELIVERIES OF RIFLES OR SMG'S IN SIGHT FROM ANY KNOWN SOURCE. SUBJECT TO YOUR CONCURRENCE, I WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN FROM RSO BEIRUT SIX M-16'S (INSTEAD OF TWO PRESENTLY ANTICIPATED), FOUR OF WHICH I WOULD ISSUE ON A "COMPOUND-ONLY", TIGHTLY CONTROLLED BASIS TO YARG CENTRAL SECURITY SOLDIERS POSTED IN THE COMPOUND AREAS IN FRONT OF AND BEHIND THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE ON A 24 HOUR BASIS. THESE WEAPONS WOULD BE CONSTANTLY OPERATIONAL, BEING PASSED FROM ONE DUTY SHIFT TO THE NEXT.

3. I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS PROPOSAL WITH AMBASSADOR SCOTES, WHO SUPPORTS THE TRANSFER, PROVIDING I CONDUCT THE NECESSARY FAMILIARIZATION AND PERIODIC REQUALIFICATION WITH THESE WEAPONS.OVER THE REMAINING TWO WEAPONS, THE FIFTH WOULD BE USED BY THE YARG FOLLOW-CAR BODYGUARD IN COM PROTECTIVE DETAIL (OPEN CARRYING OF SHOULDER WEAPONS BY BODYGUARDS IN YEMEN IS A COMMON PRACTICE) AND THE SIXTH WOULD BE RETAINED FOR U.S. USE AS PREVIOUSLY INTENDED.

4. I HAVE NOT BREACHED THIS SUBJECT WITH MY PRINCIPAL CONTACT IN SUCH MATTERS, THE YARG DEPUTY MIN OF INTERIOR AS I DID NOT WANT TO CREATE ANY PREMATURE EXPECTATIONS ON LATTER'S PART IN THE EVENT THE PLAN CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 SANAA 01213 201329Z

5. I WILL HAVE AVAILABLE APPROX 1000 ROUNDS OF 5.56 MM MILITARY AMMO WHICH WOULD PROVE ADEQUATE FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. IN ANY CASE, I FEEL THE AMMO RESUPPLY SITUATION CAN BE HANDLED AND THAT WE MIGHT, AT SOME FUTURE DATE, EVEN REQUEST YARG TO OBTAIN SOME FOR US IN ONE OF THEIR MILITARY SUPPLY SHIPMENTS BEING FUNDED BY SAUDI ARABIA. DATT ALSO FEELS THIS IS AT LEAST A FUTURE POSSIBILITY.

6. I HAVE ALSO REFRAINED FROM RAISING THIS ISSUE WITH RSO BEIRUT TO DATE, BUT FEEL HE PROBABLY STILL HAS SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF SURPLUS M-16'S ON HAND TO SPARE SIX INSTEAD OF TWO.

7. CHOICE OF M-16 BASED ON THE FACTS THAT THE TRANSFER WOULD INVOLVE NO SUBSTANTIAL COST TO USG, THE WEAPON IS LIGHT AND HAS NO APPRECIABLE RECOIL, 5.56 MM ROUND IS BASICALLY SHORT TO MEDIUM RANGE WITH LESS ACTUAL PENETRATION THAN A 9MM SMG ALTHOUGH 9MM WOULD NOT BE AS ACCURATE AT MEDIUM RANGES. M-16 IS ALSO A GOOD CHOICE FOR COM FOLLOW-CAR ON OUR FREQUENT TRIPS OUTSIDE SANA, AS, DRIVING IS OFTEN THROUGH HIGH MOUNTAIN PASSES OR THROUGH OPEN DESERT AREAS WHERE FIRE SUPPRESSION POTENTIAL OF SMG OR HANDGUNS IS QUITE LIMITED AS TO RANGE ALTHOUGH THESE WEAPONS ARE GENERALLY ADEQUATE FOR WORK DIRECTLY WITHIN SANA, BARRING MID-RANGE AMBUSH OR SNIPER ATTACKS AT ROADBLOCKS ETC.

8. IF YOU APPROVE RECOMMENDED TRANSFER, I WOULD THEN EXPLORE THE ISSUE WITH YARG TO DETERMINE FINAL OUTCOME. I DO NOT PRESENTLY ANTICIPATE ANY DIFFICULTY IN THIS REGARD. IN ALL PROBABILITY, THE WEAPONS WOULD NOT BE ACTUALLY ISSUED UNTIL JULY-AUGUST (OR LATER) SUBSEQUENT TO EACH SOLDIER'S COMPLETION OF A TRAINING COURSE UNDER MY CONTROL. IN THIS REGARD IT MIGHT BE EVEN POSSIBLE TO INTERFACE FUTURE M-16 TRAINING WITH A VISIT OF ONE OF OUR MOBILE TRAINING TEAMS.  
SCOTES

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